

CONTEXT

- Bangladesh is one of the most climate-affected countries in the world, regularly exposed to recurrent natural hazards, including cyclones, floods, monsoon rains, and storm surges. Due to the country's geographic location and low elevation, as well as other factors, Bangladesh is acutely vulnerable to these annual climatic shocks, which result in crop and infrastructure damage, population displacement, and loss of livelihoods, according to the UN. The negative impacts of climate change, combined with high inflation and low incomes, continue to drive decreasing food availability and worsening food security conditions across the country. As climate change continues to amplify risks associated with climatic events, the UN projects that Bangladesh will likely face an increased frequency and intensity of climatic shocks in the coming years, generating further humanitarian need.



- Bangladesh hosts nearly 1 million Burmese refugees, the majority of whom belong to the Rohingya ethnic minority group. The refugees fled Burma's Rakhine State in August 2017 after Burma's military forces launched large-scale and indiscriminate military operations, which the U.S. Government (USG) has since characterized as genocide. More than 931,000 of these refugees were residing in 33 crowded camps in southeastern Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar District, while more than 30,000 refugees had been relocated to Noakhali District's Bhasan Char—a silt island in the Bay of Bengal—as of June 2023, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Refugees remain in a vulnerable position as they rely almost entirely on humanitarian assistance for food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services according to the UN. Moreover, displaced persons, particularly women and girls, face a heightened risk of experiencing protection violations, including gender-based violence (GBV), the UN reports.

ASSISTANCE

- With USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and other donor support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) had reached more than 900,000 refugees monthly in Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar with emergency food and nutrition assistance as of June 2023. Meanwhile, USAID/BHA supported the International Rescue Committee in enhancing the technical capacity of a local partner to implement child protection activities and prevent and respond to GBV incidents in Rohingya refugee host communities in southeastern Bangladesh's Chittagong Division from FY 2022 to FY 2023.

- USG partners quickly mobilized following Tropical Cyclone Mocha, which made landfall over Rakhine State on May 14, 2023, and adversely affected an estimated 2.3 million people in Bangladesh. On May 16, 2023, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter D. Haas issued a declaration of humanitarian need for Bangladesh to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Mocha. USAID/BHA contributed \$250,000 to the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to provide immediate shelter and emergency relief items to cyclone-affected people. Additionally, as of late May, USAID/BHA partner WFP had distributed food assistance to more than 6,200 Rohingya refugees who were unable to return to their shelters in Cox’s Bazar due to the effects of the cyclone.
- USAID/BHA complements emergency assistance programming with early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) efforts to improve disaster preparedness, food security, and resilience throughout Bangladesh. For example, Catholic Relief Services supports communities at risk of landslides in southeastern Bangladesh by increasing their capacity to respond to and mitigate hazards, such as creating community and household plans for early action and safe evacuation. Since FY 2022, USAID/BHA has also funded World Vision to implement livelihood activities, including financial inclusion and temporary employment, in southwestern Bangladesh. Additionally, World Vision supports the creation of safe and accessible WASH conditions in the region.
- USAID/BHA supports livelihood and resilience programming in northern and northeastern Bangladesh through CARE, which has been active in the region since FY 2015. The USAID/BHA partner is promoting improved farming techniques in FY 2023 to mitigate recurrent losses caused by flooding and targeting approximately 1,600 smallholder farmers to build capacity and promote alternative livestock fodder preparation and storage methods. The nongovernmental organization also supported shelter repair assistance through cash grants for an estimated 1,000 households and raised the elevation of approximately 400 houses to mitigate effects of potential flooding in FY 2023.

USAID/BHA Funding in Bangladesh ¹			
	Emergency ²	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$123,683,910	\$9,431,993	\$133,115,903
FY 2023	\$99,080,960	\$6,500,000	\$105,580,960 ³

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 1, 2023.

Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

² Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.

³ Includes funding for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society to address immediate needs from Tropical Cyclone Mocha in 2023.